Installation Office of Emergency Management

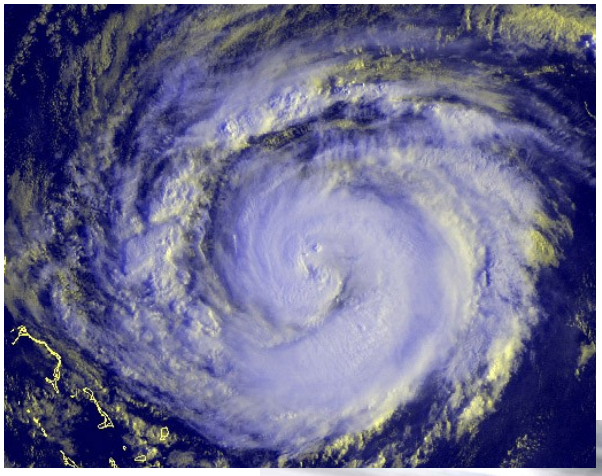
HURLBURT FIELD, FL

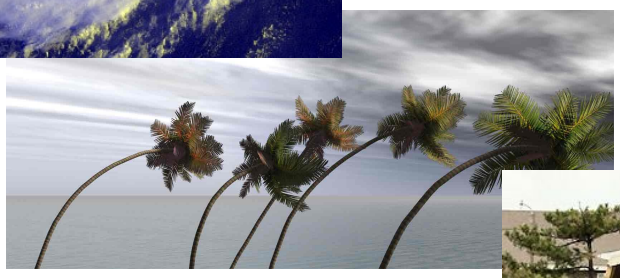
March 2008

Monthly Newsletter for the Base Populace

Hurricanes

"it's about that time"





"Prevent, Prepare, Respond, Recover"

POC: SSgt Jeffery Womack DSN 579-1149

Hurricane Season: June –

What Is A Hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone, which generally forms in the tropics and is accompanied by thunderstorms and a counterclockwise circulation of winds.

Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

TROPICAL DEPRESSION

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds* of 38 mph or less

TROPICAL STORM

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph

HURRICANE

An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher

***HURCON 4**: 72 hours prior to predicted arrival of 50 knot (58 mph) winds*

***HURCON 3**: 48 hours prior to predicted arrival of 50 knot (58 mph) winds*

***HURCON 2**: 24 hours prior to predicted arrival of 50 knot (58 mph) winds*

***HURCON 1**: 12 hours prior to predicted arrival of 50 knot (58 mph) winds*

***HURCON 0**: After the storm hits and before the "All Clear" order is given*

What Are The Hurricane

STORM SURGE - is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more.

INLAND FLOODING - In the last 30 years, inland flooding has been responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States.

HIGH WINDS - Hurricane-force winds can destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes.

TORNADOES - Hurricanes can produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to

What Should I Do:

When a **HURRICANE WATCH** is issued for your part of the coast this indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

When a **HURRICANE WARNING** is issued for your part of the coast this indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing proactive actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

What Actions Should I Take To

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family.
- Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet (Rally Points); including a child's school, a neighbor or a public place.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact. Have at least 2 ways of contact; e-mail, phone, etc.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detec
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness clas

American Red Cross

Disaster Supply Kit:

Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
foods for infants or the elderly
snack foods
non-electric can opener
cooking tools / fuel
paper plates / plastic utensils
Blankets / Pillows, etc.
Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
Special Items - for babies and the elderly
Toiletries - hygiene items
Moisture wipes
Flashlight / Batteries
Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
Cash - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
Keys
Toys, Books and Games
Important documents - in a waterproof container
insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
document all valuables with videotape if possible
Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
Vehicle fuel tanks filled
Pet care items
proper identification / immunization records
ample supply of food and water
a carrier or cage

Installation Office of Emergency Management

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.floridadisaster.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.fema.gov

For more information, refer to your Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) 10-2 pages 102-176 or contact your installation's Office of Emergency Management at 884-1149.